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Mud Lake Complex Update

2 messages

Mud Lake Complex Public Information Office <mudlakecomplex@gmail.com>

Sun, May 24, 2015 at 9:28 AM

Reply-To: mudlakecomplex@gmail.com

To: bob_degross@nps.gov

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Mud Lake Complex

Southern Area Red Team

Sunday, May 24, 2015 9:15 AM

Fire Information Office, 239-695-0881

Mudlakecomplex@gmail.com



Fire Information Office

Hours of Operation: 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

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[Mud Lake Complex Map](#)

Current Status

The Mud Lake Complex is comprised of several fires caused by lightning strikes in the Big Cypress National Preserve located in Southwest Florida, near Naples. The fires have burned 35,278 acres of various Preserve habitats which include: dense, coarse grass; pine timber; and cypress domes. Containment is currently 41 percent. The Square Fire received approximately 2 inches of rain yesterday. The northern portion is still active and showing heat. The Ellison Fire received little to no rain. Observed flame lengths were 2 to 3 feet in short grass and 4 to 6 feet in palmetto. Smoldering was observed in cypress stringers. Thunderstorms were present over both fires yesterday. The Sanctuary Fire was found and suppressed.

Planned Events

Wildland firefighter crews will continue to monitor existing containment lines, mop up fire perimeters, improve planned containment lines, and protect camps. Additionally, crews will continue to patrol, monitor and mop up hot spots using low impact fire suppression tactics to protect threatened and endangered species, such as the Florida panther, Florida bonneted bat and red-cockaded woodpecker.

Fire	Estimated acreage as of May 24, 2015	Start Date
Ellison	23,682	May 8
Ellipse	215	May 10
Square	11,375	May 10
Pekel	1.5	May 17
68	2.5	May 18
Blue Bird	0.5	May 21
Sanctuary	1.5	May 22
Personnel	349	
Equipment	6 helicopters (2 large, 2 medium, 2 small), 9 wildland fire engines, 5 fixed-wing aircraft	

Cooperators	National Park Service, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Florida Panther National Wildlife Refuge, Florida Forest Service, Seminole Tribe of Florida, Florida Highway Patrol, Collier County (Florida) Office of Emergency Management A temporary flight restriction (TFR) is in effect. http://tfr.faa.gov/save_pages/detail_5_4562.html
Restrictions and Closures	Access to lands managed by Big Cypress National Preserve south of Interstate 75, from mile marker 59 to mile marker 75 (Turner River Road), south to Upper Wagon Wheel Road is temporarily restricted as well. The closure also extends to lands administered by Big Cypress National Preserve north of Interstate 75, from mile marker 59 to mile marker 70, north to the Big Cypress Preserve Boundary. These areas will be closed to provide public and firefighter safety in areas of high fire activity. These areas are closed to all recreational use including Off-Road Vehicles (ORV), hiking, and camping. This area includes portions of the Florida National Scenic Trail from mile 12, traveling north to the northern boundary of Big Cypress National Preserve.
Fire Weather	Winds should remain easterly through the weekend and into early next week. 40% Chance of thunderstorms continue over the fire through the weekend, but chances gradually diminish early next week. High temperatures are predicted to stay in the low 90s. Humidities are forecasted to decrease into the 30s over the next few days.

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Big Cypress National Preserve - Mud Lake Complex Public Information Office | 33100 Tamiami Trail East | Ochopee | FL | 34141

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Sun, May 24, 2015 at 8:19 PM

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Fire Information Office
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[Mud Lake Complex Map](#)



The Mud Lake Complex Evening Update:

There were three new fire starts today in and near the Mud Lake Complex. Two fires began in the Big Cypress National Preserve and one began outside of the preserve. Interagency personnel responded to all three fire starts with ground and/or air support for suppression.

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